ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Mr. Karl Moulton
P.O. Box 1073
Congress, AZ 85332

January 4, 1999

Dear Mr. Moulton:

Your letter of last year was a novelty for me. It was nice of you to introduce yourself. Some of your activities are the same as mine.

Unfortunately pedigree data has recently become important on early one cent matters which we are involved with, otherwise I do very little in that regard. Early U.S. mint history has always fascinated me and I am presently working on planchet feeding and ejecting of coins of that period.

I will read and comment on anything you send, but have little enthusiasm for artificial coins such as were made for Mickley. My comments on the 1804 dollars in ANS proceedings of the COAC of 1995 is an indication of what I think about fantasies, restrikes, etc.

We have substantial information about the Col. Green and Armin Brand disposition of coins, such as some inventories and extensive invoices (1939-1946). ANS has substantial Brand detail also. Unfortunately some lists of our Green items have gone astray. Very few people have seen our records because of their frail condition. We don't release them physically.

As to Newcomer I must ask you if you have any of the Mehl inventories. We have the Colonial list. The Pioneer gold list exists but I have no copy. Are you aware of these lists? What do you know about the collections you mention?

I always want to help any sincere person who asks and now that you have met me by mail you will not have to stand on ceremony the next time our paths cross.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Do you have Steve Ivy's price list of October 1970 ?

KARL MOULTON

PO BOX 1073 CONGRESS AZ 85332 520-427-3567
E-mail address: numiscats@aol.com

July 9, 2001

Beth Deisher, Editor
Coin World
PO Box 150
Sidney, OH 45365-0150

Dear Beth,

Reading David Alexander's review of the new book about California Coiners and Assayers by Dan Owens in the July 9, 2001, issue of Coin World on page 16 was interesting; but, regrettably, biased and lacked taste. Several assumptions and labels presented by the writer were not completely accurate either. Allow me to explain.

The first inaccuracy has to do with the labeling of Paul Franklin as a "numismatist" who "scoured the West". The enigmatic Franklin was "a vest pocket dealer" and "a specialist in odd and unusual numismatic items", according to John Ford. He reportedly acted as a source for peddling new discoveries of U.S. Territorial gold. He was nothing more than a middleman according to what is known in print; with virtually all of this coming from Mr. Ford and not from Franklin.

While it's reportedly correct that Franklin visited the Western states on some of his vacations, he allegedly had a "network of people" looking for material. As he lived in New York during the 1950's until he moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, he did not physically scour the West, as the article states.

Point number two concerns the "long standing dispute involving Ford and a prominent Midwestern numismatist". This is only a partially correct statement. While it's true that these two numismatists were extensively publicized as being at odds over the material (primarily 1852–'53 United States Assay Office of Gold coinage), the record clearly shows there were many other individuals and at least one organization deeply involved in the controversy. This issue has not been adequately resolved to this day. In a 1990 publication, Mr. Ford labeled the challenge as being a "smoke and mirrors" job; while the 1968 P.N.G. arbitration panel said nothing either way concerning authenticity. With some degree of arrogance, Mr. Ford states to those who still question the legitimacy of these pieces, "there are people who think the earth is flat, too."

In the following paragraph, Mr. Alexander mentions another numismatist that also questions the authenticity of some of this material (primarily ingots). Over a quarter of the article has to do with this ongoing dispute; which, though not mentioned in the article, is currently in litigation. This has little to do with the book being reviewed and should not have appeared -- especially since the author is an employee of one of the litigants.

Speaking of this ongoing litigation, Shakespeare's phrase "much ado about nothing" was utilized by one of the parties involved. Furthermore, as printed in an auction catalogue last year, we find: "the final decision in the debate over the authenticity of western assayer's ingots having been resolved..."; yet litigation still continues.

Mr. Alexander then mentions that the new Owens book "will go far toward substituting fact for legend, history for innuendo, and truth for vendetta-powered contention". However, the original point of contention, that being the authenticity of the pieces being sold, will continue to remain in effect because Mr. Ford and Mr. Franklin have never provided any verifiable evidence to validate Franklin's so-called discoveries.

Regardless of the personalities involved, unless Franklin's sources can be documented and validated, since he's been touted as being the source for most of this material (primarily coins & ingots) entering numismatic channels, the question shall remain "what's really genuine?" Franklin's non-involvement made it quite convenient as it then becomes nothing more than the old "third-party-close" routine. Mr. Ford would later write, "We had a good thing going."

As Mr. Ford himself so accurately mentions in print in his August 1967 rebuttal about the Franklin Hoard Discovery, **"There are no coin dealers in this country capable of determining authenticity."** This begs the question, "What makes him the only one capable of guaranteeing authenticity, and why are previously unknown pieces still entering the marketplace from Mr. Ford?" (e.g. Stack's 1-16-2001, lot #1611.) Without valid or contemporary evidence, the question of origin and authenticity will never be adequately resolved. Franklin was requested to give Ford original source names whenever possible. So far, nothing has been publicly revealed, which itself creates doubt. Even Franklin questioned authenticity of some of the material according to Mr. Ford. We must remember that there are elaborate forgeries surrounding most collectibles; and numismatics is, unfortunately, no exception.

The book review would have been much better if the writer had not biased his writings and stuck to the original purpose of the article. Naturally, others may have a different opinion, which is perfectly acceptable. Hopefully, they can express it by stating pertinent facts and keep from entering into litigation over personality differences, which is quite distasteful to the entire numismatic community.

Above all, it is the right of any numismatist to challenge and correct mis-information, and to provide accurate facts pertaining to the subject at hand. At this juncture, the facts regarding these Territorial issues allegedly discovered by G. Paul Franklin have not yet been presented to everyone's approbation. Once again, Mr. Ford is invited to provide to the public all pertinent documents to support his contention that these pieces are authentic 19th century creations. By doing this, it may be possible to obtain closure on this chapter of American numismatics.

Regards,

Karl Moulton

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **THANK YOU!**
Date: 1/28/2008 9:10:38 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Your packet with the editing changes and corrections arrived this weekend. I have incorporated these, as well as a few other changes, into a final draft.

I'll be sending you a copy for your perusal, even though the changes are pretty much finished due to time constraints.

Along with the Libertas draft, I'd like to send along a "work in progress" draft about the Lord St. Oswald American coins. You can look it over and edit all you want - but please don't hurry in doing this. There is absolutely no rush at all.

My sincerest "thanks" for taking the time to go over this article. Hopefully, the information will be accepted before I die.

Best Always,
Karl

PS - I really should make it a point to visit with you in St. Louis this summer. I'll check back with you as it gets closer.

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

Subj: **Re: THANK YOU!**
Date: 1/29/2008 4:08:22 P.M. Central Standard Time
From: EricNumis
To: Numiscats

Dear Numiscat:
I do not know if you know it but when I was in England long ago I was asked by Peter Mitchel of Baldwin & Co. to look at a few 1794 US cents and tell them what the die varieties were. They then showed me two 1794 US silver dollars. I had no idea why they wanted me to do this but learned later. They were my numismatic friends but I was just a very modest customer. Eric

Tuesday, January 29, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Thank you & A Propsed Vist**
Date: 5/10/2008 4:51:23 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

My apologies for not writing any sooner. This time of year towards the end of school is rather hectic with trips. Besides, as you know, the on-going 1829 US Mint cornerstone drama is taking some time to figure out.

I really don't know how to express my deep gratitide for your taking the time and interest in editing the Lord St. Oswald adventure (starring Sarah Banks, et al). I had Katie Eagleton's web address ready to contact her about the Sarah Banks 1818 donation and collection - and here you already suggested that she may have some interest.

I don't believe the British Museum has ever published anything from an American author, yet the story certainly includes much British history and influence. That would be something!

You didn't even get to review a draft with the many piuctures that will be included. When I get the re-write finished (hopefully within a month), I'll attempt to have copies of the pictures inserted for you to review.

Which brings me to the question of a possible visit next month. Will you be home during the middle of June for an extended weekend visit? If so, please let me know real soon what dates are open so I can make arrangements with the airlines and motels (unless you could offer a room).

Will keep in touch.

Eric, my friend, ***THANK YOU*** for the encouraging words regarding my research and writing. Coming from you is indeed high regard!

Best,
Karl

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

Subj: **Lord St. Oswald and your visit**
Date: 5/12/2008 8:46:18 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Numiscats

Dear Karl:
I am glad that you accepted my editing of your saintly article and look forward to receiving the new draft with images.
In your letter you mention "an extended weekend visit" next month. It was my understanding from our prior communications that you were going to visit Champaign, Illinois first on some weekend and then drive down here. I indicated that I was available almost any time in June which would fit into that schedule. My wife suggests convincingly that I should not spend more than a few hours with any visitor because I am only 97 years old and wear out physically. Maybe when I am 100 I will not need as much rest. I just enjoy the visits too much.
I will be glad to have you visit my museum library and exhibits and if notified in advance get out of a bank vault any super rare books you might wish to see. I expect at least to give you some leather bound Stacks Ford sale catalogs which I have in duplicate. As you know I am non-commercial in numismatics. I buy things but do not sell things.We can talk about anything but I cannot afford the time to discuss what coins were in a cornerstone and who was there or argue about July 2 or July 4.
I do not know how you can handle a school position, keep up to date on so many research projects in so many different fields, write articles and run a literature business.
Go Obama Eric

.

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

Subj: **Re: Lord St. Oswald and your visit**
Date: 5/12/2008 10:44:22 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Thank you so much for the response. Your kind words mean a great deal to me.

Yes, I'm trying to combine trips to see you and Dan during the same week. With that in mind, and abiding by your wife's convincing arguments, I will try to limit my visit with you for two successive days (providing that I don't wear you out on the first one). I'd enjoy going to the WU museum with you and see all that you have done.

I promise I won't bore you with the recent cornerstone tales, but I might bring along an interesting Washington DC newspaper that has specific mentions about the new issue half dimes entering circulation that August. You would enjoy reading that, as it has never been chronicled in any numismatic text.

If I can spend 2 days with you, that way, I can check in a motel somewhere that evening and see you the following day. Naturally, I'd enjoy going to the vault to see a few selected items, such as the 1809 Perkins, the 1851 Hart, and the 1845 Riddell, etc.

Perhaps, if you would be available during the middle of the week, I could arrange for a Wed. / Thurs. visit or a Thurs. / Fri one, which ever would work best for you.

Can we schedule a Tuesday, June 17th arrival date for me to see you?

Please advise when you can.

Many thanks!

Best,
Karl

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

Subj: **Re: visit**
Date: 5/13/2008 1:12:35 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Here is what is planned at this juncture:

I will be arriving in St Louis (from Champaign) late morning on the 18th of June, which is a Wednesday. I'd like to see you that afternoon as long as you would be willing. The WU museum is definitely on the list of things to do and see that day. Dinner would be on me.

On the next day, I would like to see you, and perhaps some of the rarer literature in the vault, if you would be so kind to permit. However long you could put up with me that day would be absolutely wonderful, as I would be leaving that evening for AZ.

Let me know if this sounds like a good plan for you.

Eric, Thank you!

Best,
Karl

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

Subj: **Visit to St. Louis**
Date: 5/15/2008 8:15:19 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Numiscats

Dear Carl:
If you arrive in the late morning of June 18. 2008 I will spend as much time with you as I can handle. I plan to bring a few of my rare numismatic books from the vaults to the museum, particularly those you may not know about (assuming there is such a thing). I do not think going to the vault is advisable. If health or other critical matters come up I will let you know as soon as I can. I am flexible to some extent if you have an unanticipated scheduling problem..
As to going out to dinner on June 18 we will leave that open but it is on me if it occurs... Thank you for asking us.
I have been and am overwhelmed with writing as I am behind on several matters. I am just finishing a few addenda and errata pages for my Fugio book, I hate to leave anything not in the best shape.
My best to you. Eric

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

Subj: **Re: Visit**
Date: 6/12/2008 11:59:51 A.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Sounds wonderful. I'll wait to hear from you before Saturday evening (I'm leaving very early on Sunday morning) about where to meet up with you. Either place is fine, as I know there's just a few blocks difference.

As for the Mint reports w / pictures, if you are looking for the ones that portrayed the new 3rd Mint, most of the the ones in the mint reports were included in the James Rankin Young book published in 1903. Check in there to see if that's what you are wanting. If you can't find your copy, let me know and I'll bring mine along.

I will enjoy visiting with you and Evelyn. I don't even have the time to write down a list of questions, so we can "wing it". I'll bring along my portable recorder and camera.

As mentioned previously, I'd certainly like to see the 1809 Perkins, the 1851 Hart, and the 1846 Riddell (not the 1845). Also, if you have one, I'd like to see your copy of the Eckfeldt / DuBois Manual of 1849 with the gold packet inside on page 235. I'd like to compare it to mine. If you don't have one and would like to see one, just let me know. I'm trying to conduct a census of how many are extant with the gold and have found 5 copies that I believe are different.

Our visit should be quite enjoyable!

Best,
Karl

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Best,
Karl

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Subj: **Re:Visit**
Date: 6/13/2008 3:11:13 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Will stop by your house early afternoon on next Wednesday. Thank you for arranging a parking permit for WU, and getting some interesting surprises out for me to review.

The 1849 E/D version I'm checking with the gold packets, is the 1849 w/update to 1850 - not 1851 (that's a separate printing again). From what I have found, the gold packet wasn't originally included in the 1851 editions. There were three separate Manual's produced, and I'm checking into the second versions. Please check and see if you have one of these. Thanks.

As for anything else, the only item that would be really great to see would be the case with the remaining 1913 buffalo nickels from the Green estate. I presume the nickels would be in the case as well...

Don't have much in the Criswell line other than the regular CSA editions. I know there were some FPL's put out but I don't have a listing of those by date.

Other than that, I am really looking forward to spending some quality time with you and Evelyn next week.

My best,
Karl

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Subj: **Re: (no subject)**
Date: 6/14/2008 10:25:25 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Just finishing up getting ready to leave tomorrow morning.

Please send me your phone number once again, as I wrote it down and can't find it now.

Thanks.

Karl

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Vote for your city's best dining and nightlife. City's Best 2008.

Best,
Karl

See you then. Thanks!

Will call you only if there is a change in plans about me showing up early Wed. afternoon.

It was buried under a stack of papers (from the Banks re-write) that wasn't on my desk.

Found your number [redacted]

Hello Eric,

Subj: **Found it**
Date: 6/14/2008 10:50:04 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Page 1 of 1

Subj: **Your June 18,2008 St. Louis Visit**
Date: 6/19/2008 7:59:27 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: Numiscats

Dear Karl:
While you are driving home I am writing you to thank you for initiating your stimulating visit.It is one I will always remember because I learned so much and expect to learn more from topics your brought up. I went to sleep at 7 PM that evening and woke up at 9:30 AM with my noodle churning all night during my sound sleep.
First I am happy to say I found the Eckfeldt and DuBois I told you about but could not then locate. I bought it from Loudermilk's in Washington DC. for $150 in 1961 and have the invoice and thank you letter. It is a beautifully bound book with brown leather spine and corners and subtle ornate marbled paper on the outside of the covers. It is in beautiful condition. The spine is marked in gold leaf with the 1842 title and under it 1850. This was a compromise of the content. Inside the book the content is the 220 pages of the normal 1842 text, followed by the 1849 supplement WITH THE GOLD SAMPLE INSERT (original) and then the 2 page 1851 addition. I presume someone got mixed up and was thinking of the small 1850 edition. As I told you I also I also have another example with all the same text but without the gold sample. You told me the one with the gold sample is somewhat rare.
Your amazing surprise of the Cyclopaedia caused me to have it looked up and the reverend author Dyonysious somebody was run out of England for matriculating with a married woman in his flock. So what is new? (Maybe the new screw press was his undoing). The set of the Cyclopaedia is said to be over 200 hundred volumes. I need a copy of the title page of your volume immediately to have the matter investigated because there are many volumes on metals in addition to the one you have. The steam screw press section photocopies can be sent at your convenience.
I thank you for straightening me out on the Bankers Magazine insert of the California, etc gold coin plates. I believe my set binder bound them in under the wrong date. Do you know where an original bound set may be so we can see what really happened or shall I consult Dave Bowers who has a microfilm?
Don't forget the Criswell item or the MInt reports'
There are many other unusual numismatic books and pamphlets to see on your next visit.
From one pack rat to another pack rat, keep packing. Eric

Gas prices getting you down? Search AOL Autos for fuel-efficient used cars.

Subj: **Re: Your June 18,2008 St. Louis Visit**
Date: 6/21/2008 7:05:32 P.M. Central Daylight Time
From: Numiscats
To: EricNumis

Hi Eric,

Which one of us had a better time? Perhaps it was a draw, but I kinda doubt it...

Here's a deal for you - I want you to call me any time, about anything! E-mail works fine too.

Even if I don't keep up, I'll be glad to add what I can. You just keep in touch.

You and Tom did a great job in getting the Museum put together. It was nice to have met him also.

I'll keep an eye out for the things you mentioned that you were wanting. Thank you again for the goodies you provided to me on my visit.

Will send out a package on Monday.

Take care my friend.

Best,
Karl

Gas prices getting you down? Search AOL Autos for fuel-efficient used cars.